

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 HA-05
/063 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/V:DTOYRYLA
APPROVED BY P - MR. NEWSOM
ARA - MR. VAKY
ARA - MR. MCNEIL
L/ARA - MR. KOZAK

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O 251943Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT

REF: LA PAZ 5803

1. T;E DEPARTMENT'S PRESENT PRACTICE REGARDING RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIMES IS TO PLAY DOWN THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDANCE OF SEEMING TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET FORMALLY MOVED TO THE FRENCH PRACTICE OF RECOGNIZING STATES RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS, WE ATTEMPT TO AVOID DIRECT ADDRESS TO THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION. ESPECIALLY IN CASES WHERE THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF CONTINUITY IN THE SITUATION, THE U.S.G. TENDS TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT NO QUESTION OF RECOGNITION ARISES. IN
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BOLIVIA, WHERE PRESIDENT BANZER HANDED THE BATON TO THE MILITARY JUNTA, WHICH IN TURN HANDED IT TO GENERAL PEREDA, WITHOUT ANY APPARENT IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT, ELEMENTS OF CONTINUITY ARE PRESENT.

2. GENERALLY, ONCE THE SITUATION HAS CLARIFIED, THE NEW REGIME IS EFFECTIVELY IN CONTROL OF THE MACHINERY OF

GOVERNMENT AND OF THE TERRITORY OF THE STATE IN QUESTION,

AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEGUN TO RECOGNIZE OR FORMALLY TO CONTINUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, WE WILL FIND AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF OUR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. RECOGNITION IS NOT MENTIONED BUT MAY BE IMPLIED BY U.S.G. CONTINUING TO DEAL WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT. OTHER RECENT INSTANCES IN WHICH THIS APPROACH HAS BEEN USED INCLUDE THE EMERGENCE OF NEW REGIMES IN ETHIOPIA (1974), HONDURAS (1975), THAILAND (1976), URUGUAY (1976), AND AFGHANISTAN (1978).

3. AT PRESENT, THERE IS A CLEAR INCLINATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE ELEMENTS OF CONTINUITY IN THE BOLIVIAN CASE AND TO CONTINUE RELATIONS WITHOUT FANFARE. HOWEVER, THE TIMING OF A COMMUNICATION TO THAT EFFECT TO THE NEW BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. IN AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH MCNEIL AND TOYRYLA ON JULY 22, BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR ITURRALDE GAVE GREAT IMPORTANCE TO RECOGNITION AND URGED POSITIVE U.S.G. ACTION SOONEST. ALTHOUGH ITURRALDE ADMITTED THAT COMMUNICATION WITH LA PAZ HAS BEEN DIFFICULT AND HE WAS SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, HIS FOCUS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACT OF RECOGNITION MAY VERY WELL REFLECT SIMILAR PERCEPTIONS IN THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT. EDWIN TAPIA, IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU, HINTED AT A SIMILAR PREOCCUPATION. IF THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE CASE, THE TIMING OF OUR COMMUNICATION OF INTENT TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS COULD PROVIDE USEFUL LEVERAGE. IT THEREFORE IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION THAT CONTINUANCE OF RELATIONS HAS BEEN DECIDED UNTIL DEPARTMENT HAS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PEREDA'S PLANS, PRESUMABLY DURING YOUR NEXT CONVERSATION WITH TAPIA.

4. IN THE MEANTIME, DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO ASSESS EMBASSY'S REPORTING ON PEREDA'S EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION, TO EXERT CONTROL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. UNTIL THIS OCCURS, EMBASSY MAY MAINTAIN ROUTINE WORKING CONTACTS AND HOLD OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES AT LOWER LEVELS. PLEASE AVOID FORMAL ACTS THAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS RECOGNITION, AND AVOID STATEMENTS SUGGESTING THAT RECOGNITION IS A MAJOR QUESTION THAT WE SHALL FORMALLY OR DRAMATICALLY DECIDE TO ANNOUNCE. (11 FAM 113.7)

5. SHOULD EMBASSY RECEIVE A REQUEST FROM NEW BOLIVIAN LEADERS FOR U.S.G. RECOGNITION, EMBASSY SHOULD NOTIFY DEPARTMENT AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE187442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DTOYRYLA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780305-0357
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780722/aaaaasma.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8412e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LA PAZ 5803
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1892323
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECOGNITION OF THE PEREDA GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PGOV, BL, US, (PEREDA)
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8412e76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014